We claim:

1. A method for screening for HCV exposure in humans that utilizes an immunoassay for detection of molecule(s) capable of recognizing multiple classes of anti-HCV molecules simultaneously in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples comprising the following steps:

(a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;

(b) introduction of a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples;

(c) introduction of the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprised of immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d) selectively capturing labeled antibodies which are specific for the peptides present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;

(e) measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction.

2. A method according to claim 1 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule to tag all classes of antibodies with a reporter molecule for subsequent detection.

3. A method according to claim 1 that utilizes the generation or absence of light, and a light-gathering device to measure said light, to recognize antibody quantity and distribution within the trapping zone.

4. The method according to claim 2 wherein the non-antibody molecule is Protein LA.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the fluid sample is undiluted saliva.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the labeling molecule is AP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

7. A method for screening oral fluid samples for the presence of anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid;

(b) introduction of a labeling molecule to the oral fluid to label antibodies in said fluid;

(c) introduction of the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprised of immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d) selective capture of labeled antibodies which are specific for the peptides present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;

(e) detection of anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class that require at least one epitope of the HCV peptides present within the trapping zone.

Sub. a3

8. A method according to claim 7 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule to tag all classes of antibodies with a reporter molecule for subsequent detection.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the non-antibody molecule is Protein LA.

10. The method according to claim 7 wherein the labeling molecule is AP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

Sub. a4

11. A method for determining the genotype of HCV virus in a patient having HCV by measuring patient antibody binding to HCV peptides of specific HCV genotypes comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;

(b) introduction of a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples;

(c) introduction of the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprised of immobilized HCV peptide antigens;

(d) selectively capturing labeled antibodies which are specific for the peptides present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;

(e) measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction.

12. A method according to claim 11 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule to tag all classes of antibodies with a reporter molecule for subsequent detection.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the non-antibody molecule is Protein LA.

14. The method according to claim 11 wherein the labeling molecule is AP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

15. A kit for use in the method of claim 1 comprising:

(a) a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples;

(b) a flow through affinity matrix comprised of immobilized HCV peptide antigens.